

Recycling and Refuse Management Committee Minutes

Sept. 13, 2007

Present: Guilford Mooring, Superintendent of Public Works; Susan Waite, Recycling Coordinator; Marianne Lorenzelli; Clare Bertrand; Meg Vickery; Lucy McMurrer.

Updates:

Susan has informed IT about Hwei-Ling's difficulties reading the minutes from our meetings and they suggested either it might be Hwei-Ling's computer or to put the minutes in Arial font.

The June meeting minutes were accepted without changes. The August meeting minutes ought to reflect that the MRF grants will only be awarding recycling bins, nothing else. MRF grant changes are only for this year. We don't know what they will be doing regarding grants next year.

Geoff Freidman cannot commit to Thursday meetings at this time and will not be able to be on the committee. The Thursday time is not easy for several other committee members and therefore the committee agreed to change the meeting time from 4:00 to 4:30.

Sustainable Energy Fair:

We will have a booth, home water conservation kits for free, composters for sale, and the hybrid car for educational purposes. If people are interested in obtaining water conservation kits, they must (1) be Amherst residents and (2) be willing to participate in a small survey. All committee members have signed up for staffing the booth.

Bottle Battle:

Susan went to the Promoting Downtown Amherst meeting earlier in the month, distributed the recycling-friendly business decals to some business members, and told all members about them. This decal is a goodwill gesture for Amherst businesses who recycle. They need only fill out a survey to receive it. Members of the RRMCM can go into stores, distribute decals, and collect survey information.

School Composting:

Bob Martin will still accept Amherst school compost this year. It's hoped that Amherst schools with custodial changes will continue composting. The video that we have ought to be shown again at all schools to educate students about composting and recycling.

Lucy will draft a letter to the town encouraging the new school lunch contract to include something about getting recyclables in and plastics out of lunchrooms.

Grant information:

Susan said many of the DEP grant options available to the town have already been used. She has applied for grants for a water tight, split body recycling truck, bilingual (Spanish/English) door hangers re: recycling, 20 more discounts for rain barrels, and in-kind technical assistance from DEP personnel.

Amherst Trash Haulers:

We need to move on trash hauler licensing. The town renews licenses in December. We'll try to get on the Board of Health's agenda for their next meeting and present the problem to them along with our offer for help in resolving it. Susan, MaryAnne, Meg and Lucy will form a subcommittee to work on this. We also need to change the wording of the town licensing document itself to include "recycling" since it currently does not.

New business:

MassRecycle has chartered a Connecticut River cruise for Oct. 7. For more information, go to:
http://www.massrecycle.org/event_cruise.html

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, Oct. 11, at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy McMurrer
Recycling and Refuse Management Committee member